



Winter 2000-01

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Bond Issue Projects Scheduled

The first of four issuances of bonds will be made in May, signaling the start of work on projects approved by Broken Arrow voters in the Dec. 12, 2000 bond election.

Voters passed five separate bond projects totaling \$28.1 million. The May bond issue will be for \$6.8 million, followed by a \$9.5 million issuance in August, 2001 (the 2001-2002 fiscal year). There will be a \$3.5 million bond issuance in July of 2002 and then the final \$8.3 million in July, 2003.

Broken Arrow's City Council has approved a schedule of bond projects which includes street and intersection signal improvements, additions to the Parks & Recreation Department and improvements in public safety.

Among the street and signalization projects which will begin with funding from that May bond issuance are signals at Elm Place and Tucson, Aspen and Florence, Oneta Road and Kenosha, Aspen and Tucson, Albany and Lynn Lane, New Orleans and Aspen and Houston and Lynn Lane. Also included in the first phase of projects will be the widening to five lanes of Elm Place from Houston to Washington, from Washington to New Orleans and from Florence to Tucson. The other two street projects included in that first funding will be five-laning Aspen from Jasper to the Indian Springs Sports Complex and three-laning Lynn Lane from the BA Expressway to Albany.

Parks & Recreation projects funded through the first bond issuance will be Country Aire Pool construction, acquisition of land and construction and equipping a new park, work on Centennial Park and work on three Indian Springs Sports Complex facilities: the baseball maintenance building, perimeter fencing for the new complex and asphalt paving for the upper baseball complex.

Funds from the May bonds will provide additional outdoor warning sirens for the city's emergency weather alert system and acquisition of land for a future fire station.

When the second release of funds is made in August, additional projects will be started, including:

Streets: completion of five-laning Elm Place from Washington to New Orleans; five-laning Elm Place from Florence to Tucson; five-laning Aspen from Jasper to the Indian Springs Sports Complex; and three-laning Lynn Lane from the BAX to Albany. Work will also begin on five-laning Olive from the South Loop to Tulsa Technology Center-BA; three-laning Tucson from Elm to Aspen; and three-laning Tucson from Aspen to Olive.

Parks & Recreation: expansion of the BA Historical and Genealogical Society facilities at The Main Place; expansion of Broken Arrow Seniors, Inc., facilities at The Main Place; beginning the construction of a youth football complex; beginning the construction of a youth/community center; construction of a spray pool at Rockwood West Park; and improvements to several other parks, including Lions, Urbana, Rockwood East, Timberbrook, Vandever, and a new flume slide at Central Pool.

Public Safety: beginning construction of a police and fire department training center; improvements to the Animal Shelter.

A complete list of projects and their schedules and funding is available on the City's web site: www.city.broken-arrow.ok.us.

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Ordinance Targets False Alarms

Nothing seems to be slowing down the growth rate in Broken Arrow's population, but there is something slowing down efforts of the city's Police Department in providing services to that growing population: false alarm calls.

Statistics show that more than 98 percent of the calls made by police officers to burglar/intrusion alarms wind up being false.

"Residents and business owners pay a lot of money to have alarm systems installed," said Lt. Carole Newell of the BAPD. "But if those systems are not installed correctly, or if they are not used correctly, we can expect a lot of false alarms. The No. 1 cause of those false alarms is user error."

Due to that increasing number of false alarm calls and the strain the problem puts on the Police Department, the City Council is studying a proposal to change the ordinance that addresses alarms.

The new ordinance requires that users of burglar/intrusion alarm systems must first acquire a "First Response Permit" from the City before police will make the initial response after the alarm is activated. The permits would cost \$20 and also include information which help police

in getting in touch with alarm companies and owners of the homes and businesses. Those who do not wish to purchase the permits must depend upon a representative from their alarm company or someone at the home or business to notify police that there is evidence of a crime having been committed. This is known as “secondary response” mode. In the past, police would respond to all alarm calls. If they ascertained that no crime had been committed, a letter would be issued and a report filed. Lt. Newell told City Council members that the false alarm calls had cost the City more than \$55,000 during the past year, and more than 100 lost man hours per month. Chief Carolyn Kusler also pointed out that there was a growing concern for officer safety, as too often those responding to alarm calls assumed it would be a false alarm. A similar ordinance in Tulsa reduced the false alarm calls by 38 percent. A key component to putting the ordinance in effect is obtaining public input. It was written after hours of studies of what other cities throughout the country have done to deal with the same problem. And the ordinance is designed to cut back on the false alarm runs, without taking punitive action against those with multiple violations. “We want to hear from the residents and the business owners in our community who depend upon alarm systems,” said Lt. Newell. To contact Lt. Newell about the new First Response Permit system, call 259-8444, ext. 3, or e-mail her at CNewell@city.broken-arrow.ok.us.

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City Council Seats on Ballot

Voters in Broken Arrow will go to the polls April 3 to elect representatives to their City Council from Wards 1 and 2. Incumbents Richard Carter in Ward 1 and Ron Whitaker in Ward 2 are being opposed by Leah Baker and Craig Thurmond, respectively. All registered voters in Broken Arrow are eligible to cast ballots for both posts. Watch the City’s web site (www.city.broken-arrow.ok.us) and Cox Cable Channel 24 for precinct locations..

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Spring Cleaning Day May 5

If you’re like most Oklahomans, getting into the mood for Spring cleaning is no easy matter. So once again this year the City of Broken Arrow is providing a little motivation. City residents will be getting cards in the mail that will entitle them to 200 free trash bags when distribution begins April 16. On April 21 the State of Oklahoma will be conducting its 13th Annual “Trash-Off” campaign, and the City of Broken Arrow will be urging all those organizations and businesses participating in the Adopt-A-Mile program to get out that day and help clean up the streets and roadsides.

Then on May 5 the City will once again sponsor its Free Spring Clean-Up Day. From 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on that Saturday residents may bring all accumulated brush and household trash to the City's Maintenance Center, 1700 W. Detroit. Bring as many loads as you wish; there is no charge.

However, the City will not accept toxic materials, hazardous waste, tires, oil and batteries. The City Recycle Center on South Elm Place will accept oil and batteries on April 21 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. That center is now open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Distribution of the free trash bags will begin each day at 8 a.m. and continue through 6 p.m. (April 16 to 21 and April 23 to 28). You must bring the card you receive in the mail to pick up those 200 free trash bags. Best times to come by the Maintenance Center, where distribution is held, are 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Lines can be long during the morning rush hour, lunch hour and in the evenings when people start getting off work.

Those participating in the Adopt-A-Mile program may pick up free trash bags from the Parks & Recreation Department. Call 259-8380 for information.

Also, if you or your organization or business would like to become a part of the Adopt-A-Mile or Adopt-A-Park program, call that same number. Cost is \$35 a year and sponsors' names are placed on signs along that stretch of road or in the park. The Parks & Recreation Department is also looking for any volunteers who would like to help "clean up" the City on April 21.

The Spring Clean-Up Day is provided by the City free of charge each year to help ensure that waste is properly disposed of within the community. Each year the mountain of trash collected grows bigger and bigger.

There will be City employees on hand to help throughout the day, keeping the lines moving. But be prepared: lines can be long!



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City Hosts Rooster Days

When Roosters Days 2001 opens the night of May 10, it will once again be an example of teamwork.

As always, the Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the event. But the expansion in recent years from what used to be a Friday night-Saturday program would not have been possible without the City and Chamber working together.

Rooster Days has always been a celebration by residents of Broken Arrow. During the past several years, however, big-name entertainment has been added to bring in thousands of visitors from throughout Oklahoma and other neighboring states. Another popular feature has been the Saturday night gospel music program, this year featuring Bryan Duncan and A New Song. Friday's Country & Western show will be provided by David Alexander and by Asleep at the Wheel.

The carnival begins Thursday night at Central Park, with many food booths and arts and crafts booths throughout the Community Center and its parking lot. The Miss Chick contest will once again be held Saturday.

Having a successful Rooster Days program requires long hours and hard work by scores of volunteers and Chamber officials. But it also requires the work of Broken Arrow's police and fire departments, public works department and Parks & Recreation workers, as well as City administrators.

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Meetings, Court Sessions Moved

Due to extensive renovation of the Broken Arrow Council Chambers at City Hall beginning this spring, there will be a change of sites for meetings of the City Council, Planning Commission and other bodies, as well as the City's Municipal Court sessions beginning April 1.

Those meetings normally held in the Council Chambers will be moved to the large meeting room at the Community Center (the northwest corner) until the end of July.

Continue to monitor the City's Municipal TV Information Channel (24 on Cox Cable) and the City's Web Site (www.city.broken-arrow.ok.us) for complete information and agendas of meetings.

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Police Volunteers Needed for DVIS

The Broken Arrow Police Department is looking for volunteers to work in its Domestic Violence Intervention Services (DVIS) program, assisting Lucy Simpson, a full-time counselor. Help is needed in handling paperwork, making follow-up calls and, for those qualified, counseling at the scene of domestic violence calls. For information call Simpson at 451-1507.

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Tennis Lessons Offered

Once again this year the Broken Arrow Parks & Recreation Department will be offering a tennis program. The cost is \$60 for two sessions a week, for eight weeks. Judy Fenner and Melissa Parker will be supervising the program, which is limited to 50. It will begin April 1.

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